



Department of
Transportation

AGENDA

Federal Transit Administration

27th ANNUAL ENGINEERS' MEETING

JUNE 1-3, 2011

Renaissance Washington, DC Downtown Hotel

FTA Staff-Only Breakout

Meeting Room *Mount Vernon Square/Meeting Room Level*

7:30 – 8:30 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:00 Opening Remarks and Office of Engineering Updates
Presenters: Aaron C. James, Director Office of Engineering
Carlos M. Garay – Prior Action Items

9:00 – 10:00 Around the Regions Discussion (approximately 10 minutes per region).

Moderator: Aaron C. James

The intent is to allow each region the opportunity to ask questions, make recommendations or share project experiences related to project oversight, technical issues, roles, circulars, guidance, PMO program, best practices, etc.

10:00 – 10:15 Break - *Mount Vernon Square Foyer*

10:15 – 11:00 Continue Around the Region Discussion

11:00 – 12:00 Meeting with Office of Project Planning

Moderator: Beth Day, Director Office of Project Planning

The Office of Project Planning representatives join the meeting for an opportunity to discuss New Starts and Small Starts including LONPs, Preliminary Engineering, Final Design and FFGA reviews and approvals.

Note: There will be a concurrent PMOC breakout session starting a 9:00 am. Room: Congressional Hall/Salon A

- 12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch (provided) – Room - **MR 12-13-14/Meeting Room Level**
- 1:00 – 2:00 Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions
Henrika Buchanan-Smith, Associate Administrator for
Program Management
- Administrator's Remarks
Peter Rogoff, FTA Administrator
- 2:00 – 2:15 Meeting Overview/Office of Engineering Updates
Aaron C. James, Office of Engineering
- 2:15 – 2:30 Break
- 2:30 – 4:30 FTA Initiatives
- Moderator: Henrika Buchanan-Smith, Associate Administrator for
Program Management
- Topic: Oversight Initiative
Presenter: Henrika Buchanan-Smith
- Topic: Buy America, Project Labor Agreements
Presenter: Dorval R. Carter Jr., FTA Chief Counsel
- Topic: Civil Rights
Presenter: Linda C. Ford, Acting Director, Office of Civil Rights
- Topic: State of Good Repair
Presenters: Keith Gates, Office of Budget and Policy,
- Topic: New Starts
Presenter: Elizabeth S. Riklin, Acting Associate Administrator for Office
of Planning and the Environment
- Topic: Research and Innovation Update
Presenter: Vincent Valdez, Associate Administrator for Office
of Research and Innovation
- Topic: Safety and Security Initiative
Presenter: Gerry Powers, Acting Director, Office of Safety and Security
- This session serves to share and discuss ongoing FTA initiatives.*
- 4:30 Day 1 Wrap-up
Carlos M. Garay, Office of Engineering
- 5:30 – 6:30 PM Reception – **Penn Quarter/Mezzanine Level Above Lobby**

Note: MR 15 on the Meeting Room Level will be available during the meeting hours to provide a convenient place to make cell phone calls or conduct business

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast - **MR 12-13-14/Meeting Room Level**
- 8:00 – 9:00 Technical Capacity and Capability for New Starts and Small Starts Projects
 Moderators: Charlene Lee Lorenzo, FTA Region IX, Metro Office
 Presenters: Bill Tsiforas, Jacobs Civil,
 Kam Shadan, Gannett Fleming, Inc.
 Jeff Allen, Kimley Horn and Associates

The aim is not to start a project phase short on resources! Projects must have an adequate organization, number of qualified personnel and necessary tools to complete the current phase of the project successfully. This session explores techniques to assure TCC for a variety of projects (NS, SS, and experienced and less experienced grantees).

- 9:00 – 10:00 The Portland and Tucson Streetcar Production Experience
 Moderator: Kim Nguyen, Office of Engineering
 Presenters: Amy Changchien, FTA Region X
 Don Carnell, Atkins
 Tom Kuimjian, Atkins

While there are many differences between the two streetcar projects, one significant commonality shared by the Portland and Tucson projects is the domestic streetcar manufacturer, Oregon Iron Works. This presentation will include discussions on the collaborations between Region 9 and Region 10 in making FTA's oversight functions more effective; the OIW vehicle production and girder rail alternatives.

- 10:00 – 10:15 Break

- 10:15 – 11:00 Current Legal Issues for the New Starts, Small Starts, and Fixed Guideway Modernization Programs
 Moderator: Mamie Smith-Fisher, Office of Engineering
 Presenter: Scott A. Biehl, FTA Deputy Chief Counsel

Open discussion with Mr. Biehl on various legal issues including reauthorization, current rulemakings, Small Starts and PCGAs.

- 11:00 – 12:00 Joint FRA/FTA Policy
 Moderator: Laurie Fucini- Joy, FTA Region I
 Presenter: John Mardente, Program Manager, FRA Passenger Safety Division

This presentation is to help FTA and PMOCs gain a basic knowledge of Federal Railroad Administration safety regulations, published guides to collision hazard analysis, system safety, Passenger Station "Gap" Safety Management and Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

12:00 – 1:00 PM LUNCH (provided) – Room: **MR 12-13-14/Meeting Room Level**

1:00 – 2:00 Invited Speaker: Dave J. Kubicek, Deputy General Manager
Operations, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
Authority (WMATA)

The speaker will discuss ongoing initiatives at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

2:00 – 3:00 Underground Rail Transit Stations
Moderator: Carlos M. Garay, Office of Engineering
Presenter: Anil Verma, AIA, President, Anil Verma Associates, Inc.

The intent of this presentation is to share the challenges of designing and constructing underground rail transit stations. The presentation will cover the functional components related to public spaces in stations along with ancillary equipment spaces that are necessary for an operating system. The presentation will share experiences of successfully implementing a Design / Build project and a Design / Bid / Build project.

3:00 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:15 Geotechnical/Tunneling Methods
Moderator: Michael O'Connor, FTA Region II
Presenter: Randall J. Essex, PE, Executive Vice President and
Director of Tunneling, Hatch Mott MacDonald

Successful tunnel design and construction depends on many factors - knowing the subsurface conditions; matching the right construction technology to the ground conditions, tunnel shape, size, and function; and identifying and managing the many technical and non-technical risks.

4:15 – 5:00 Testing, Commissioning and Start-Up
Moderator: Jessica Shaw, Office of Engineering
Presenter: Peter Wong, PGH Wong Engineering Inc.

Good planning for pre-revenue operations testing is essential. Testing verifies that all systems, subsystems, components, equipment, and materials conform to the requirements of the contract documents. Successful completion of the pre-revenue operations testing, certifying, and permitting ensures the transit project will operate as an integrated whole.

5:00 PM Day 2 Wrap-up
Pam Peckham, Office of Engineering

7:00 – 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast - **MR 12-13-14/Meeting Room Level**

8:00 – 9:00

PMOC's Breakout Session Report

Moderator: Steve Asatoorian, Office of Engineering

Presenters: Tim Mantych, Jacobs Civil

Kam Shadan, Gannett Fleming, Inc.

This will include a report from the Wednesday morning PMOC-only breakout session and an open forum to discuss ongoing PMOC program implementation.

9:00 – 10:00

Managing Contingency

Moderator: Dale Wegner, Office of Engineering

Presenters: Brian Glenn, Director Washington Metro Office Vince

Gallagher, Hill International

Dan Reich, Burns Engineering

This will discuss the "Do's and Don'ts" of contingency management best practices concerning contingency management, Risk and Contingency Management Plans, updates, etc.

10:00 – 10:15

Break

10:15 – 11:15

Cost Estimating Best Practices

Moderator: Corey Walker, Office of Engineering

Presenter: Brian Ehrler, Burns Engineering.

The ability to generate reliable cost estimates is a critical function, necessary to support capital project implementation. Without this ability, projects are at risk of experiencing cost overruns, missed deadlines, and performance shortfalls.

11:15 – 12:00

The Risk Model Experiences

Moderator: Trina Reese, Office of Engineering

Presenter: Michael O'Connor, FTA Region II

In a simple and transparent manner, Mike will share the genesis of the Beta Model development, synthesize the application and commensurate on the lessons learned from the experience in the last five years.

12:00 – 1:00 PM LUNCH (provided) – Room: **MR 12-13-14/Meeting Room Level**

1:00 – 1:45 Safety and Security in New Starts Projects

Moderator: Carlos M. Garay, FTA Office of Engineering

Presenters: Lavern McElveen, FTA Office of Safety and Security
Dennis Newman, Interactive Elements, Inc.

This presentation will discuss the process by which FTA assures that Safety and security is integrated into New Starts projects.

1:45 – 2:15 Updates to the FTA's Risk Model

Presenters: Chris Nutakor, FTA Office of Engineering and
Carlos M. Garay, FTA Office of Engineering

The purpose of this session is to share ongoing work to develop a risk calculation model that will improve our ability to intuitively interpret the risk assessment results that come from the OP40 Risk Workbook.

2:15 – 2:30 Closing Comments
Aaron C. James, Office of Engineering

2:30 PM Adjourn